

Urban District Council of Filey.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, for the Year ended 31st December, 1914.

To the URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL of FILEY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,—In presenting my

REPORT for the Year ended 31st December, 1914,

I beg to inform you that 57 births were registered in Filey during that period—28 males and 29 females, giving a birth-rate for the year of 17·2 per thousand.

30 deaths occurred during the year, 14 males and 16 females, giving a death-rate of 9 per thousand which is 9 per 1000: very satisfactory and compares favourably with any of our health resorts.

12 of the deaths recorded were of persons over 70 years of age, of whom 4 were over 80 and 1 reached the advanced age of 93 years.

The infantile mortality was very low, only two children under 12 months dying during the year.

There has been no notifiable epidemic disease throughout the entire year and the ordinary notifiable cases were few in number.

Rain fell upon 178 days in 1914, the rainfall for the year amounting to 23·46 inches against 20·18 in 1913.

The Inspection of the District in conformity with the provisions of "The Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909" has been continued and has been attended with excellent results. Particulars of inspections are as follow, namely:—

Houses inspected	172
Houses found unfit for habitation	1
Houses in which minor defects were found	125
Houses in which no defects were found	30
Houses closed without the making of a Closing Order	1
Houses in which minor defects referred to have been remedied (including 10 cases left over from 1913)	135
Houses in which defects have still to be remedied	15

In the course of our inspections we found no case of overcrowding and usually the houses were clean and well kept. We have found the owners in the great majority of cases fully prepared and anxious to carry out the recommendations made and in many instances they have gone beyond their statutory obligations in so doing.

A large number of improvements have in addition been carried out under the provisions of the Sanitary Acts and in all 427 sanitary operations have been carried out in 253 separate houses or premises, particulars of which are appended in tabulated form.

During the year 27 new houses were built, 8 privies with fixed receptacles were converted into privies with movable bins, and 2 were abolished. There are now no privies of the old type within the district and the ordinary privies will be converted into water closets whenever circumstances will allow. At the end of 1914 there were within the Urban area 862 fresh-water closets and 264 privies with movable receptacles. Under sec. 57 of the "Filey Improvement Act," 88 notices were issued requiring movable Dust Bins to be substituted for ashpits and in 85 instances these notices have been complied with. The house-to-house scavenging is well and efficiently performed by the Council's own workmen under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and the refuse meets with a ready sale to neighbouring farmers for agricultural purposes.

The Sewerage and Drainage of the town is good and sufficient, the sewage being discharged into the sea from an outfall below ordinary low-water mark. Every house in the Urban District is now directly connected to the town's sewers.

The Council supply water under the Authority of "The Filey Water and Gas Act, 1898" and the supply afforded is excellent in quality and abundant in quantity. The main source of supply is an artesian well situate near the Station, the bore-hole of which extends to a distance of 365 feet below the surface of the ground, over 100 feet being through the rock. This water is so pure and so well protected from contamination that it can be pumped into the mains for immediate use whilst the surplus water is stored in the Reservoirs at Hunmanby.

I have visited the Reservoirs and have inspected the filter-beds and have found everything well kept and in satisfactory condition.

Alterations are now in progress at the Reservoirs which will increase the storage accommodation and ensure an ample supply of water should any unforeseen breakdown occur at the Pumping Station.

Chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations have shown the water to be of high class quality and well suited for all purposes of a town's supply.

The Milk supply is largely derived from sources outside the district and the quality of the Milk is very good. The Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops within the district have been regularly inspected and no complaints of importance have had to be made.

The Schools in the district have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory. The Medical Inspection of the School Children is carried out by the County Council, and is doing much good in improving the health of the children.

I have inspected the several Factories and Workshops and have found no overcrowding or other defects.

The Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses have been periodically visited and found clean and well kept.

No diseased meat or food has been found in the course of our inspections.

I append the usual statistics of mortality and infectious diseases.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

J. THOS. HAWORTH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Feb. 2, 1915.

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